United Nations A/63/430/Add.5

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 December 2008

Original: Arabic

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 64 (e)

Promotion and protection of human rights: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Report of the Third Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session, under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights", the sub-item entitled "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a general discussion on the sub-item jointly with sub-items 64 (b) and (c) at its 28th to 31st meetings, on 28 to 30 October 2008, and took action on sub-item (e) at its 35th and 39th meetings, on 4 and 11 November. An account of the Committee's consideration is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/63/SR.28-31, 35 and 39).

3. At the 28th meeting, on 28 October, an introductory statement was made by the Officer-in-Charge of the Disability Unit of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.3/63/SR.28).

4. For the documents before the Committee under this sub-item, see A/63/430.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.37

5. At the 35th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in six parts, under the symbol A/63/430 and Add.1-5.

08-63079 (E) 091208

Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto" (A/C.3/63/L.37). Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Montenegro, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Suriname, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 39th meeting, on 11 November, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (see A/C.3/63/SR.39).

7. Also at the 39th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.37 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 62/170 of 18 December 2007, as well as relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Human Rights,

1. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[1] and the Optional Protocol thereto[2] on 3 May 2008;

2. *Also welcomes* the fact that, since the opening for signature of the Convention and the Optional Protocol on 30 March 2007, one hundred and thirty-six States have already signed and forty-one States have ratified the Convention and seventy-nine States have signed and twenty-five States have ratified the Optional Protocol, and that one regional integration organization has signed the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention and the Optional Protocol as a matter of priority;

4. *Welcomes* the first meeting of the Conference of States Parties, held on 31 October and 3 November 2008, and the establishment of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

5. *Also welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto;[3]

6. *Further welcomes* the Joint Statement of Commitment to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the Inter-Agency Support Group;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to assist States to become parties to the Convention and the Optional Protocol, including by providing assistance with a view to achieving universal adherence;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the staff and facilities necessary to support the effective performance of the functions of the Conference of States Parties and of the Committee established under the Convention and the Optional Protocol, as well as for the dissemination of information on the Convention and the Optional Protocol, taking into account the provisions of the Convention, in particular on accessibility;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue the progressive implementation of standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and

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[1] Resolution 61/106, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] A/63/264 and Corr.1.

services of the United Nations system, taking into account relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular when undertaking renovations, including interim arrangements;

10. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take further actions to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in the United Nations system in accordance with the Convention, including the retention and recruitment of persons with disabilities;

11. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to strengthen efforts undertaken to disseminate accessible information on the Convention and the Optional Protocol, including to children and young people to promote their understanding, and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under those instruments;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the status of the Convention and the Optional Protocol and the implementation of the present resolution.